

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The output voltages of dark pixels and optical black (OB) pixels are different between a row including a pixel which receives strong light and another row.

- 5 An image formed upon receiving a strong light spot
suffers whitish bands on the right and left of the
spot. To solve this problem, this invention provides
an image pickup apparatus including a pixel containing
a photodiode which converts a photo-signal into a
10 signal charge and accumulates the signal charge and an
amplifier transistor which amplifies the signal charge
accumulated in the photodiode, and a control element
adapted to limit the output of the amplifier transistor
so as to prevent the output from falling to below a
15 predetermined voltage.

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